

to meet, not only because of my own conviction but because it is clear to me that the people feel the same way.

Mr. Spivak: Based on the knowledge that you have of your own State, who would carry the State, today, do you think, among the three most likely candidates?

Governor Agnew: My honest conviction is that any one of the Republican candidates who are being talked about could carry Maryland, today.

Mr. Donovan: Governor Agnew, you have been stressing here the change that has taken place in the public philosophy since the riots after Dr. King's death, the fear that people have, their worry, and you seem to be full of praise for Richard Nixon's strong stand against all this. Aren't you saying that what Nixon is riding here is a white backlash?

Governor Agnew: Not at all, because if you have noticed Mr. Nixon's statements, particularly with regard to the need to stimulate the investment of black capital in the ghettos and to bring the black man in this country to a point of leadership in an economic sense — not just in a sense of relying upon governmental programming to support him — this is what I think cuts through any attempt on the part of Nixon to, what you might say, be equivocal on this question.

Mr. Donovan: Sir, I believe you have been quoted from Tulsa as having said that if Nixon were President he would not have allowed the Poor People's Campaign to encamp—

Governor Agnew: That is false. I said that I was not at all in sympathy with the Poor People's March and that I couldn't visualize any President giving any group of people having a special interest the right to camp out on that public land, and I mean exactly that. I am sure that, for example, if any other group having a political purpose requested the use of public land in Washington, the answer would be without any question, a no, and I don't know why this group is different.

I question the identification of these people as the poor people. No one has ever proved to me that these people are poor, and there are a lot of Cadillacs parked over there.

Mr. Furgurson: Governor Agnew, if I may shift away from politics, per se, for a moment, to ask you about one of the most critical issues, the hottest issues before us today. That is gun control. In Maryland